



Traverse City Fire Department

2020 Annual Report

(L-R: FF Bajtko, Lt. C. Jackson, FF
Rang)

A note from the Fire Chief:

Hello,

The following pages represent the City Fire Annual Report for 2020. Data, information and photos have been assembled to give you a glimpse of what we here at City Fire have been

accomplishing and working on over the past year to keep our helping our Community safe.

City Fire along with everyone else, has made significant adjustments to daily life here at the fire stations and also with our own families. Since last March, both fire stations have been locked down to family, friends and members of the public. No tours of the stations have been held since then and we have not made our traditional fire safety visits to the City elementary schools as a few examples of a long list.

We recognize that there are families and other members of our Community who have lost loved ones during this time and our hearts go out to them.

We are truly humbled by the tremendous support during the pandemic from our municipal and private partners. It has enabled us to respond to the emergency and non-emergency needs of the Traverse City Community without skipping a beat. This is not an accident. It is due to the generous support from our Community and also from the hard work, commitment and professionalism our Firefighters and Fire Officers bring to the fire stations every day.



With Best Regards,

Chief Tuller

Mission Statement:

“The Traverse City Fire Department is an all-hazards emergency response agency that will provide protection and safety for the public.”

Traverse City Fire Station 1
500 West Front Street
Traverse City MI 49684
(231) 922-4930

Traverse City Fire Station 2
1313 East 8th Street
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 922-4932

Fire Chief Jim Tuller
(231) 922-4930 Ext. 2
Jtuller@tcfire.org



Personnel and Station Staffing

Line Staff

- 3- Suppression Captains
- 3- Suppression Lieutenants
- 15- Firefighter/Paramedic

Administrative Staff

- 1- Chief
- 1- Fire Marshall
- 1- Inspector
- 1- Training Officer

Station 1

- 1 Captain
- 3-2 Firefighters

Station 2

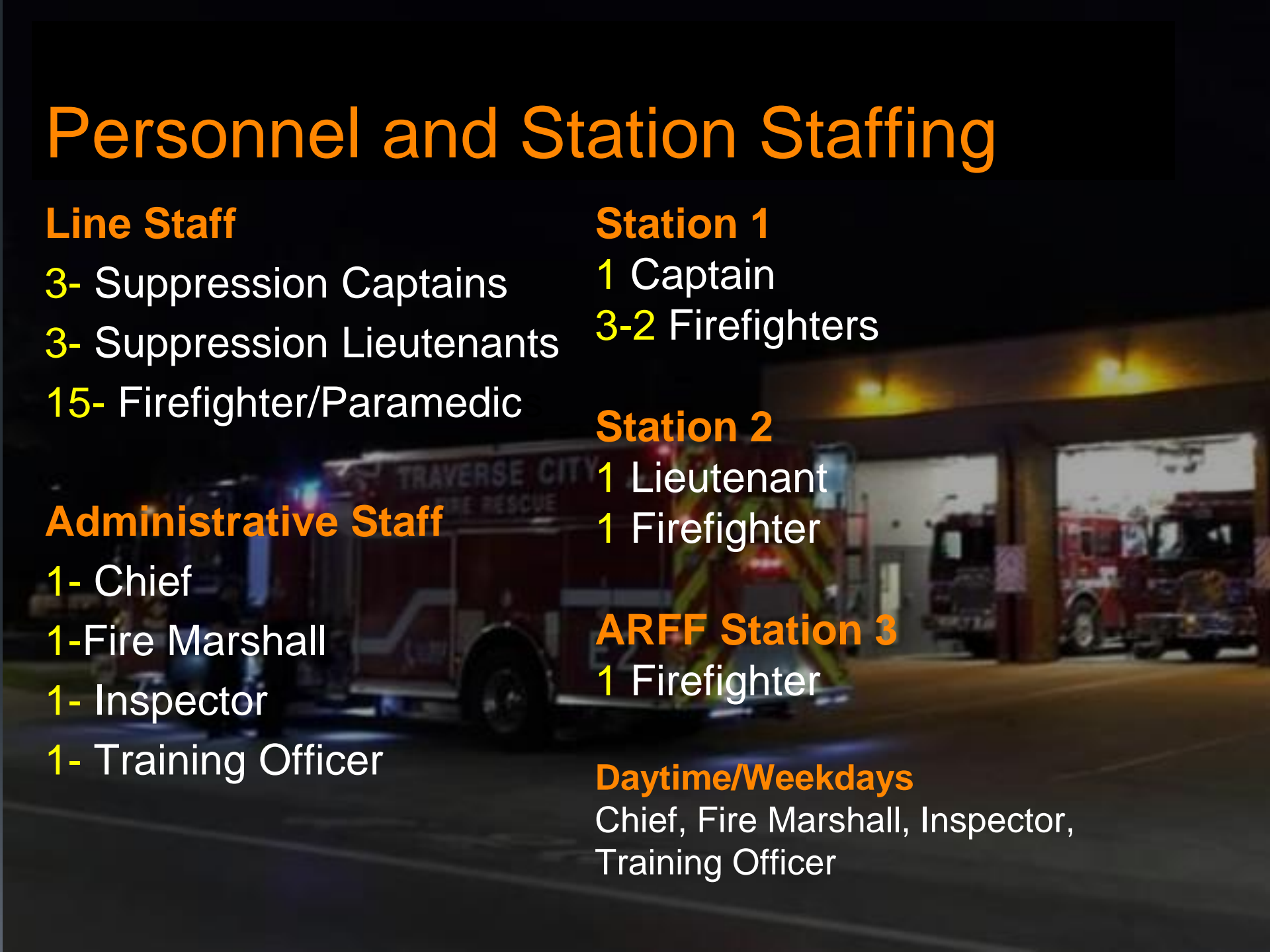
- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Firefighter

ARFF Station 3

- 1 Firefighter

Daytime/Weekdays

Chief, Fire Marshall, Inspector,
Training Officer



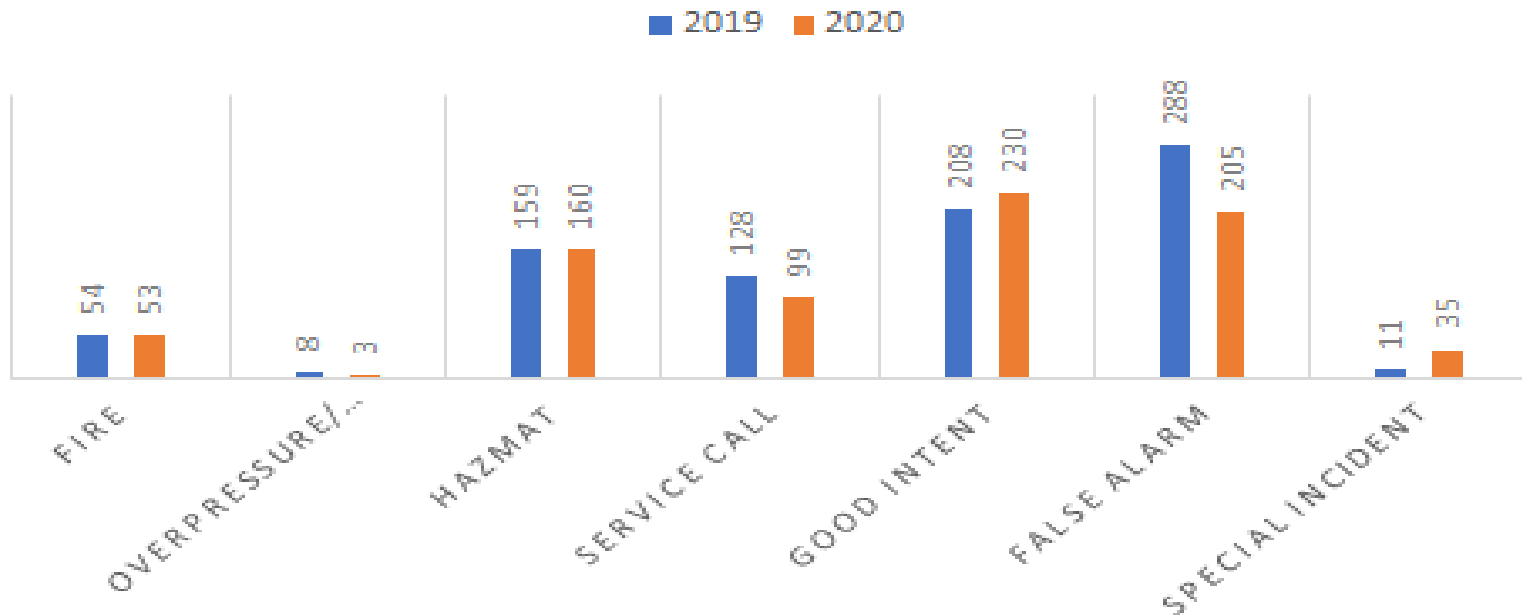
Emergency Response

911 emergency calls recorded in 2020:

- Fire – 52
 - Over pressure, Explosion – 3
 - Rescue/EMS – 2147
 - Hazmat – 160
 - Service Call – 99
 - Good Intent Call – 230
 - False Alarm/call – 205
 - Severe weather – 2
 - Special Incidents – 35
-
- Photo: Rapid Intervention training (Firefighter rescue) at a house scheduled for demolition.



2019-2020 COMPARISON



- | | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------------|------|------|
| ▪ Rescue and EMS/Medical | 2441 | 2147 |
| ▪ Total calls for year | 3187 | 2932 |
- Note: City Fire ran more emergency calls for July and August 2020 (605) than July and August 2019 (573).

53 fires in 2020 : 42 were structure fires

Some of the structure fires that occurred were contained to the room of origin and were designated a 1st alarm response.

Some of the fires had advanced beyond the room/space they began in and required many more personnel that the 5 - 6 City Fire has on duty. These fires were designated a 2nd Alarm response with Automatic or Mutual Aid which brings additional firefighters and apparatus from neighboring fire departments.



Assistance on structure fires 2020: Given and received

Automatic Aid:

Received = 12

Provided = 27

Mutual Aid:

Received = 1

Provided = 14

Of assistance provided by
City Fire, 29 incidents were
structure fires.

Agencies that were recorded
on the 2nd Alarm response
to the fire shown on the
previous slide and this
slide:

City Fire Station 01 and 02,
City Fire off-duty call-in,
City Police, Michigan State
Police, GT Metro Fire,
Elmwood Fire, North Flight
EMS, GT County
Emergency Mgmt.



Fires: Estimated Property Saved vs Loss

Date	Location	Nature	Assessed Value	Loss (EST)	Save
Jan 13	Cass Street	Commercial Building Fire	\$3,000,000	\$35,000	\$2,650,000
March 06	Hamilton Street	Residential Fire	\$200,000	\$31,000	\$169,000
May 15	Blair Township	Commercial Building Fire	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$250,000
June 01	Hannah Avenue	Residential Fire	\$250,000	75,000	\$175,000
August 08	West 12 th Street	Residential Fire	\$687,000	\$250,000	\$437,000
October 22	6 th Street	Commercial Building Fire	\$1,500,000	\$3,000	\$1,497,000
November 27	East 8 th Street	Residential Fire – Multi-family building	\$245,000	\$70,000	\$175,000
November 27	Centre Street	Residential Fire - Multi-family building	\$690,400	\$10,000	\$680,400
December 07	Birchwood Avenue	Residential Fire –	\$321,000	\$10,500	\$310,500
Totals			\$7,293,400	\$634,500	\$6,343,900

Training: There are no “do-overs” in the Fire Service.

Much of the training that City Fire personnel participate in is performance-based training to insure competence in the skill that is required to be learned.

We task our firefighters with teaching others on the department new methods and/or practices they have learned from other courses or schools.

The retention rate for practicing what you have learned is 75%.

The retention rate for teaching others what you know is 90%.

(FF Snay operating saw. FF Hamilton observing)



“Nozzle Forward” training at Hull Park

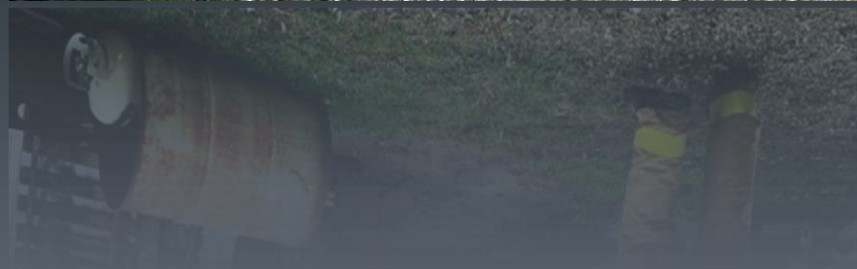
Nozzle Forward is the name of an intense 3-day training course of hose line management and fire attack drills where firefighters are trained in the advancement (movement) of hose lines while still flowing water to attack a fire. Firefighters are taught to use their body mechanics and weight to move the hose lines quickly and efficiently without exposing themselves to the fire or to physical injury. As the saying goes – “The best way to rescue is to get water on the fire”



Ground ladder training at Station 01 hose tower

Today's fires develop extremely quickly, leaving just 3 minutes for occupants to exit safely.

Being able to place and set up ground ladders quickly and accurately is critical. It may be the route into a house's 2nd or 3rd floor to rescue trapped occupants, or it may be the way firefighters escape a rapidly deteriorating interior fire condition.



Rescue 1 Transport Record

City Fire Rescue 01 is an Advanced Life Support unit that transported 31 patients to the Munson Medical Center Emergency Department in 2020.

City Fire is currently involved in an EMS Transport Feasibility Study sponsored by the City Manager's Office.

Is it feasible for City Fire to hire more personnel and purchase additional transport units to become the primary transport service for the City? The Fire Department supports this effort however this is a complex topic.

Meetings are being held weekly to gather data and information to answer this and many other questions on the subject. We will be hearing more on this subject this summer.



Paramedic training: Airway skills

Securing an airway in an unconscious patient, whether a newborn infant or one of our elderly citizens, can be accomplished several different ways using different techniques and equipment. The adage “practice makes perfect” directly applies to this discipline.

(Note: The training event pictured was held before the occurrence of the pandemic and the subsequent restrictions)



City Fire Marine 01: Boat Operator training

Marine 01 is a 1983 Avon rigid hull inflatable, 19' long rescue vessel. It was acquired from the US Coast Guard in the early 1990's in a used condition through a government surplus program.

Marine 01 is stationed at the Clinch Marina throughout the summer boating season which provides for a 3-minute response time out of the marina onto West Bay. City Fire responded to 13 water rescue calls in 2020.

An internal Staff Committee has been formed to work on replacing 38-year old Marine 01 with a new vessel that will provide the capability we need to protect users of a busy West Bay.

(FF Snay operating Marine 01 during a open water rescue drill)



Ice Rescue Training – Boardman Lake

When a person falls through the ice in the wintertime, the clock starts ticking. Time is against the victim due to immediate threat of drowning and also the more latent effect of hypothermia.

City Fire typically practices on Boardman Lake in areas where the ice is not safe – as unsafe ice is the hazard where citizens may find themselves in trouble.

As our winter weather patterns change and shift, there is a concern that the development of unsafe ice conditions may become more prevalent.



Technical Rescue training: High Angle Rescue

Technical Rescue is a collection of rescue disciplines that require specialized training and equipment to accomplish. High and Low Angle Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue and Collapse Rescue are examples.

These are capabilities that City Fire provides as part of the Bay Area Technical Rescue Team (BATR). Several fire departments in GT County provide firefighters and equipment to form this special response effort.

(FF McKerchie setting up to rescue a training mannequin from the side of a building).



ARFF training at USCG Air Station Traverse City

The FAA requires all Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters (ARFF) to participate in an annual “Hot Drill” where controlled fires are provided to enable firefighting crews and crash trucks to be drilled on the latest aircraft fire extinguishment practices. The fire are propane fueled fires in water-filled burn pans and on a mockup aircraft. Multiple fire attack and passenger rescue drills are held throughout the 8-hour training day. A thank you to both Cherry Capital Airport and USCG Air Station Traverse City for their help each year.



Training

- Over 10,000 total department training hours logged were for 2020.
 - Each Firefighter is required 228 hours of Fire related training. This does not include their paramedic license renewals/certification and training in other emergency service disciplines.
- Fire Suppression (Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Wildland)
- Driver's training – all City Fire apparatus.
- EMS – Advanced Life Support
- Hazardous Materials response and stabilization
- ARFF (Aircraft Rescue Firefighting)
- Ice Rescue – Water Rescue (open water and swift water)
- Active Shooter/Assailant - Mass Casualty Incident
- High Angle Rope/Confined Space Rescue

Training

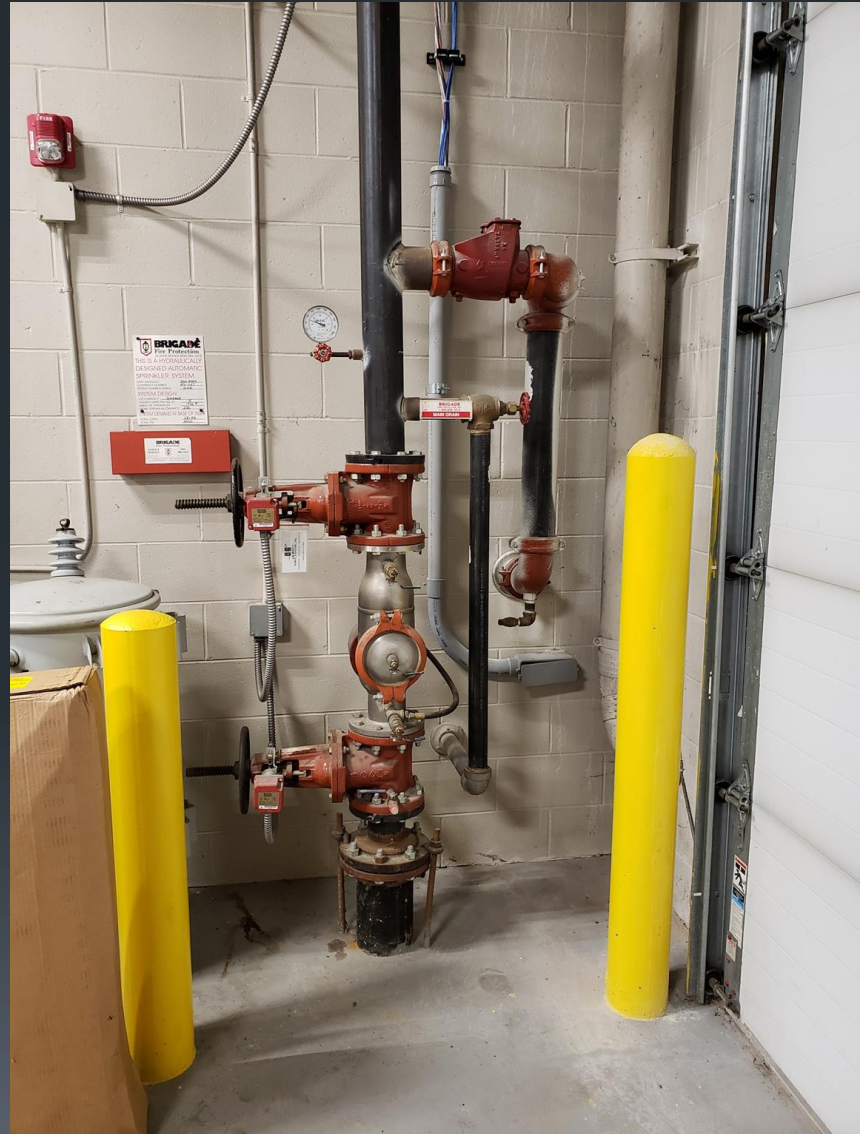
- Over the past 3 years, City Fire has been developing our own roster of certified Fire and Medical Instructors to enable us to provide quality and required continuing education in many fire service disciplines at a minimal cost. Most training is accomplished on-duty either in or about the fire stations or at different locations within the City on properties owned by individuals and companies that have partnered with us to train our firefighters.
- This effort became very important in the early months of 2020 when the pandemic caused the cancellation of local and out of town training conferences and courses we would normally send our firefighters to.
- We were able to re-tool our internal training program to temporarily make up for the effects of the pandemic.

Fire Code Compliance Activities

There are a reported 3,469 business/commercial establishments within the City.

The goal established in 2008 was to perform 1,300 inspections per year.

Current practice is a 5 - 7+ year cycle for most occupancies.



Inspections

Annual Fire Inspections: 265

Special Event inspections: 32

Tourist home inspections: 13

Vacation Home Rental Inspections:
36

Liquor License Inspections: 7

Mobile Food Vendor Inspections: 22

Side Walk Café Inspections: 32

Construction Inspections: 132

Fire Protection Inspection/
Acceptance Tests: 105

Total Fire Prevention/Inspection
activity:



Plan Reviews

Site Plan Reviews: 61

Building Plan Reviews: 59

Fire Alarm Plan Reviews: 43

Fire Sprinkler Plan Reviews: 25

Fire Suppression Plan Reviews: 10

Special Event Plan Reviews: 51

Liquor License Plan Reviews: 10

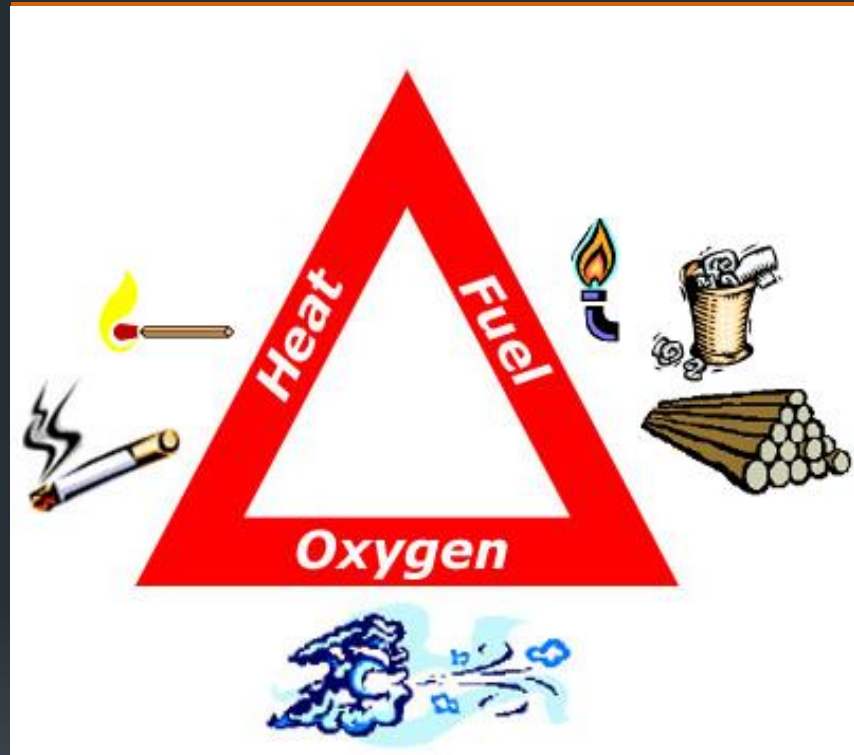
Tourist Home Plan Reviews: 13



Public Education

Regrettably, the 2020 Open House was cancelled due to pandemic. Training that was able to be provided under restrictions is as follows:

- Fire Extinguisher Training: 30 hours
 - 13 Events
 - 210 attended
- Firefighter Familiarization: 20 hours
 - 4 Events
 - 80 attended
- Smoke Alarm Installs
 - 26 Smoke Alarms
 - 12 Carbon monoxide alarms
 - 11 City Residents Homes



Community Assistance : Christmas Toy Program

Christmas Toy Collection:
Immaculate Conception
Elementary School

The annual Toy Wrap Day at City Fire Station 01 for the Firefighters Christmas Toy program was handled by the firefighters on duty in 2020. Due to the pandemic, we could not bring in members of the public into the Station to help us.

Toys were provided for over 60 families this past Christmas as a result of the help we received from the students at Immaculate Conception, private donors, and donations from area businesses.

(Pictured is long-time Toy Program supporter Jan Cleland. Jan's father is Al Cleland, TCFD Captain Ret.)



Community Assistance: Annual Guns & Hoses Police vs Fire Hockey Game



City Fire members of TEAM FIRE that worked with other are firefighters and EMS personnel to beat TEAM POLICE by a final score of 5-3 on February 22, 2020.

(Pictured L-R: FF Taylor, Lt. C. Jackson, Coach Tuller, Insp. Fritz, FF McMahon)

2020 TCFD Aspirations

- Even staffing on 3 Suppression crews at 7 - **DONE**
- City Fire primary ALS response and transport project - **WIP**
- Upgrade software for asset management and personnel tracking on emergency scenes - **DONE**
- Regular local live fire training – **Postponed - COVID**
- Fire Instructor certification for 3 personnel - **DONE**
- Storage facility at Station 02 - **DONE**
- Develop Special Team response with area fire departments - **WIP**
- Administrative support for Fire Department - **WIP**
- Pre-Incident resource development and site mapping - **DONE**
- Maintain ISO 3 classification - **DONE**
- Participate in GT Area Youth Fire-Setter mitigation group - **WIP**
- GIS City Fire map viewer - **DONE**
- Joint training exercises with GT area fire departments – **Postponed - COVID**
- Training resource sharing with other fire departments and emergency response agencies - **DONE**
- Fire hydrant identification and gpm marking program - **WIP**
- Development of internal Company Officer training program - **WIP**
- Paperless report processing in the field - **DONE**
- Hazmat team and response re-structured - **DONE**
- Increase internal training program provision and FD self-sufficiency - **WIP**

2021 TCFD Aspirations

- City Fire primary ALS response and transport project.
- Regular local live fire training to meet ISO requirements.
- Develop Special Team response with area fire departments.
- Administrative support for Fire Department
- Contract with new EMS medical billing service.
- Explore cost recovery options for City Fire services provided.
- Develop new contract between City and Mobile Medical Response
- Upgrade staffing to 2 City Fire personnel for each front-line response unit.
- Develop replacement timeline and plan for current City Ladder 01.
- Develop replacement timeline and plan for current City Marine 01.
- Maintain ISO classification 03 status.
- Participate in GT Area Youth Fire-Setter mitigation group.
- Develop joint training exercises with GT Area fire departments.
- Fire hydrant identification and gpm marking program.
- Development of internal Company Officer training program.
- Increase internal training program provision and FD self-sufficiency.
- Research feasibility of 3rd-party policy and procedure consultant service.
- Leverage technology to strengthen data storage and retrieval capability.
- Increase internship program for college students and retiring military service personnel.
- Leverage technology to continue consistent continuing education and training.

THE END

Thank You:
For Your Dedicated Support to the Traverse City Fire
Department.



- Traverse City Fire Department Hockey players and Coach:
- Annual Guns and Hoses Police vs Fire Hockey Game
- (L-R: FF Taylor, Lt. C. Jackson, Coach Tuller, Insp. Fritz, FF McMahon)